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Classified By: UNSPECIFIED
 Classification Reason: UNSPECIFIED
 Declassify On: X5

~~(S//NF)~~ **SUBJ: SITUATION REPORT AS OF 1200 HOURS LOCAL TIME**

Identifiers:

(b)(3)

Dates:

(b)(1)
 (b)(3)

Coverage:

CIA Country Code: BOL
 Region: AMERICAS, BOLIVIA

Publisher:

Agency Acronym: CIA
 Office Name: NCS

(b)(3)

Warnings: ~~(S//NF)~~----- CENTRAL
 INTELLIGENCE AGENCY INFORMATION REPORT, NOT FINALLY EVALUATED
 INTELLIGENCE -----

(U) CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

(U) INFORMATION REPORT, NOT FINALLY EVALUATED INTELLIGENCE REPORT CLASS S

~~SECRET~~--NOFORN DIST: 15 OCTOBER 2003

(U) REPORT CLASS S ~~E~~ ~~C~~ ~~R~~ ~~E~~ T--NOT RELEASABLE TO FOREIGN NATIONALS--

ALL (b)(1)

PORTIONS CARRY CLASSIFICATION AND CONTROLS OF OVERALL DOCUMENT. END OF (b)(3)
 MESSAGE ~~SECRET~~

~~(S//NF)~~ 1. AS OF 1200 HOURS ON 15 OCTOBER 2003, THE SITUATION IN LA PAZ AND EL ALTO, BOLIVIA REMAINED SOMEWHAT CALM, WITH SPORADIC ROAD BLOCKS AROUND THE CITY OF LA PAZ. THE ROAD TO THE INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT PAZ CONTINUED TO BE BLOCKADED BY DEMONSTRATORS IN THEIR INDEFINITE STRIKE AGAINST THE GOVERNMENT. GASOLINE WAS IN SHORT SUPPLY IN LA PAZ WITH ONLY A FEW STATIONS SELLING LIMITED AMOUNTS OF GASOLINE TO CUSTOMERS. MOST SUPERMARKETS AND OTHER BUSINESSES REMAINED CLOSED IN LA PAZ AND EL ALTO.

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(S//NF) 7. BY DAY, THE MAIN ROAD FROM LA PAZ TO THE INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT IN EL ALTO HAS BEEN IMPASSABLE. PROTESTORS HAVE REINFORCED THEIR BLOCKADES WITH TORN-DOWN STREET LAMPS, ROCKS AND EVEN A LARGE RAILROAD CONEX CAR. TO IMPEDE SMALLER VEHICULAR TRAFFIC WHICH HAD BEEN ABLE TO NAVIGATE THE LARGER OBSTACLES, PROTESTORS HAVE STRUNG WIRE ACROSS THE ROAD TO KNOCK RIDERS OFF THEIR MOTORCYCLES AND BICYCLES. IN SOME AREAS, THE WIF(b)(1) IS STRUNG ALONG THE ROAD TO TANGLE THE WHEELS OF VEHICLES. PROTESTORS(b)(3) HAVE ALSO PLACED IMPROVISED SPIKES IN THE ROAD TO DESTROY TIRES.

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(S//NF) 8. THE ONLY PEOPLE ABLE TO ENTER AND EXIT EL ALTO HAVE BEEN PEASANT WORKERS OR PEOPLE KNOWN TO AREA RESIDENTS TRAVELLING ON FOOT. STRANGERS ATTEMPTING TO GO TO THIS AREA OF LA PAZ ARE WARNED TO MAKE THE JOURNEY ONLY AT NIGHT, AS PROTESTORS HAVE BEGUN TO CAMP ALONG MAIN PAT(b)(1) AND PELT ANY CAUCASIAN (OR NON-INDIAN) LOOKING CITIZENS WITH ROCKS. THE (b)(3) ATTACKS ARE RANDOM AND ARE EITHER ATTEMPTS TO EXTORT MONEY OR ATTEMPTS TO IDENTIFY UNDERCOVER POLICE OFFICIALS. [REDACTED] COMMENT: THOSE THAT TRAVEL TO EL ALTO BY FOOT MUST USE SIDE STREETS AND PATHS ALONG THE MOUNTAIN WHICH ARE QUESTIONABLE BY DAY AND RISKY AT NIGHT. AREA RESIDENTS HAVE (b)(1) TAKEN TO USING THESE PATHS AND SIDE STREETS TO AVOID BEING ACCOSTED BY (b)(3) ANGRY OR DRUNK PROTESTORS. PEDESTRIAN TRAVEL TO EL ALTO TAKES APPROXIMATELY THREE HOURS AND A ROUND TRIP TAKES BETWEEN 4-6 HOURS. [REDACTED]

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(S//NF) 9. TO DEMONSTRATE THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF SANCHEZ DE LOZADA HAS THE BACKING OF BOLIVIANS IN MOST OTHER AREAS OF THE COUNTRY, OFFICIALS OF THE MINISTRY OF POPULAR PARTICIPATION (SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT) HAVE BEEN TASKED WITH CALLING GOVERNORS AND MAYORS TO ASK THEM TO SEND WRITTEN DECLARATIONS OF THEIR SUPPORT AND THEIR CONSTITUENTS' SUPPORT FOR TO LA PAZ. AT THE SAME TIME, VICE-PRESIDENT CARLOS ((MESA)), IS BEING OSTRACIZED BY MANY IN THE GOVERNMENT FOR INITIALLY ABANDONING THE ADMINISTRATION EARLIER THIS WEEK. [REDACTED]

(b)(1)

(b)(3)

Collection: CC

Creator:

Agency Acronym: CIA

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(b)(3)

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(b)(1)

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(b)(3)

Subject: None

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